

REMARKS

1. General

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. (Claim 10 is added herein). The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, & 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Pinto et al.** (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,469). The Examiner has rejected Claims 3 & 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pinto et al.** in view of **Henriksson** (U.S. Patent No. 5,279,180).

2. Response on Rejection of Claims 1-2 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Pinto et al.** (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,469). **Pinto et al.** discloses a system having distinguishable remote activation components. The present invention incorporates (and claims) a remote release mechanism whose structure and function is different from that described or taught by **Pinto et al.**

Pinto et al. teaches a vehicle movable on four caster wheels a pair of which may be locked or unlocked **electronically** (see Abstract). The “control cable” that the Examiner refers to as being shown in Figs. 2 and 8 is in all instances an electrical wire. The operation of **Pinto et al.** is not the result of a mechanical linkage, as is the case in the present invention, but is rather a combination of an electrical push button switch (48), an electrical wire connection (shown but not numbered), a battery power supply (46), and an electromagnetic solenoid (14). The solenoid (14) is connected to the retractable pin and is activated by directing electrical current from the battery through the push button switch.

The present invention, as claimed in Claim 1, includes; “a **longitudinally moveable** control cable **mechanically** connected to said retractable retention pin” (as amended and emphasis added). The present invention further includes and claims; “a remote release mechanism **mechanically** connected to a distal end of said control cable in a manner that directs

the **longitudinal movement** of said control cable and thereby the longitudinal movement of said retention pin” (emphasis added). The use of an electrical solenoid and the requisite electrical power supply and circuitry does not teach the use of a mechanically movable cable that is mechanically linked directly to the retention pin and is physically moved by a remote release mechanism to which it is also mechanically linked. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 & 9 to clarify this mechanical linkage versus any type of electrical operation.

The environments within which the two systems in question operate, namely an indoor hospital environment in the case of **Pinto et al.**, and an outdoor, rough terrain environment in the present invention, dictate some of the differences in the distinct solutions that the systems offer. A battery operated electrical system would be wholly inappropriate in the case of a jog stroller due to the outdoor exposure and the resultant likelihood of corrosion to the electrical components. The jog stroller environment of the present invention requires a system that is likely to endure more “abuse” and rough handling, thereby benefiting from an entirely mechanical activation system.

The Examiner’s view of **Pinto et al.** as having a “control cable” is therefore misplaced. The reference to Claim 4 as having a similar structure in **Pinto et al.**, i.e. as having a control cable connected to the retention pin, is also misplaced. In **Pinto et al.** the electrical wire is connected to an electromechanical solenoid, which is only “connected” to the retention pin by way of an electromagnetic field.

With regard to Claim 7, **Pinto et al.** discloses no feature of the push button electrical switch that would “fix it in an actuated condition.” In fact, it appears that the operation of the system disclosed in **Pinto et al.** requires the operator to maintain pressure on the electrical switch in order for the solenoid to remain “actuated.” This would appear to be the case because no mention is made of “re-activating” or “de-activating” the system when a reversal of the condition

of the caster wheels is desired. In addition, the maintenance of an activating current on the solenoid in **Pinto et al.**, if the electrical push button were held down, would quickly deplete the battery of power necessary to make the system function. The present invention, on the other hand, uses and claims (in Claim 7 and in newly added Claim 10) the mechanical fixing of the release mechanism in its actuated state and may be kept in such a state indefinitely until the “activated” condition is no longer desired. In general the use of a battery powered system is incongruous with the objectives of the present invention. Certainly the weight of such a system would be inappropriate for a jog stroller or the like that would typically be handled by a single individual over frequently rough terrain. In addition, it would frequently be necessary with a jog stroller to maintain the “activated” state of the remote release mechanism due to the multiple path obstructions that would be encountered. For this reason alone the use of a battery powered electrical solenoid would never be considered as an option for solving the problem of maintaining either a locked or a movable jog stroller wheel.

3. Response on Rejection of Claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Pinto et al.** in view of **Henriksson** (U.S. Patent No. 5,279,180). Applicant repeats herein the above arguments with respect to the **Pinto et al.** disclosure as equally applicable with regard to the Examiner’s view of Claims 3 and 9. Because **Pinto et al.** involves an electrically operated system there would be no reason to look to **Henriksson**, which involves a strictly mechanical lever, to find the remote actuation means. It is, in fact, evidence of the differences between the present invention and that disclosed and taught in **Pinto et al.** that the **Henriksson** hand lever structure would not function in conjunction with the electrically operated system of **Pinto et al.**

In addition to the distinctions outlined above for the **Pinto et al.** disclosure, Applicant would point out the differences between the wheel and bearing structures associated with

hospital gurneys, wheel chair casters and the like, and the wheel and bearing structures associated with bicycle steering headsets. One skilled in the art would not likely look to caster assemblies utilized in distinctly different environments for suggestions as to solving problems associated with the outdoor "bicycle wheel" environment.

As with the independent claim herein, Applicant has amended Claims 3 and 9 to add the clarifying language "longitudinal direction" to describe the motion of the control cable in the present invention. This makes clear the inapplicability of the **Pinto et al.** reference since it involves no control cable motion at all, relying instead on the electrical current to operate a solenoid. Claims 3 and 9 which, like Claims 2 & 4-8, each depend from independent Claim 1 are now believed distinguishable over the prior art cited. Claim 10 has been added as a corollary to existing Claim 7.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION

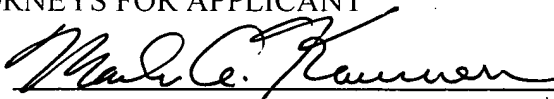
Applicant now respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims previously rejected and their passage to allowance. Should any further impediments to allowance remain, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the indicated phone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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